

Quarterly Report June – September 2013

Wadata Makiyaya “Thriving Pastoralists” in Hausa

Funded by USAID / Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)



Fodder demonstration site, Toukounous Station

COUNTRY CONTACT	HEADQUARTERS CONTACT	PROGRAM SUMMARY
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1. Executive Summary

Designed as a follow-on to the USAID/OFDA award-winning *Projet d'Appui à la Sécurisation des Terres et Ouvrages de Rehabilitation des Aires Locales* (PASTORAL) program (March 2011-September 2013), Wadata Makiyaya is meeting the recovery needs and help to lay the foundation for resilience to future shocks of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists of the departments Filingué and Abala, in the Tillabéri region of Niger. The goal of the program is to allow vulnerable pastoralist and agro-pastoralist households along the international transhumance corridor to be food secure and less vulnerable to shocks.

During the reporting period, program start-up, including the recruitment of new staff positions, was completed. The project was presented to stakeholders at both field and national levels, and overall planning and monitoring tools were established. A baseline study, beneficiary identification, fodder demonstration trainings and nutritional demonstrations were carried out. Sites were identified for livestock vaccination crushes' construction.

Technical terms of reference for wells identified for rehabilitation are being finalized. VSLA capacity building, in collaboration with our local partner ASUSU CHIGABA, is being implemented, and the awareness-raising, membership criteria definition and selection, and official investiture of *Commissions Foncières de Base*¹ (COFOB) have been completed.

2. Program Overview

Repeated food crises in recent years, particularly the poor harvests in the 2011/2012 growing season, have systematically weakened the ability of communities to meet household needs and mitigate future risks. With projected food shortages for 2013, areas of the Tillabéri Region remain especially vulnerable, as they face continued food insecurity due to high malnutrition, strained resources and poor harvests. PASTORAL made strides in meeting immediate needs in past crises and strengthening the recovery of vulnerable populations in this region; however, programming under Wadata Makiyaya in 2013/2014 is critical to solidifying the ability of these populations to rebuild their livelihoods and weather future shocks.

Wadata Makiyaya is supporting vulnerable communities by enabling the population in the target areas to maintain their animal assets, strengthen their economic base and ensure sustainable management of natural resources, while mitigating and reducing their risks of future hazards. Wadata Makiyaya is protecting and reinforcing the livelihoods of vulnerable communities in the Filingué and Abala departments through a community-led, market-driven approach to recovery.

Specifically, the program is helping households maintain animal assets through: increased access to and sustainable management of land and water resources; improved efficiency and effectiveness of veterinary services; increased understanding and application of herd and business management training; and strengthening linkages between livestock stakeholders to better address market failures.

¹ Local Land Management Commission

Wadata Makiyaya is working to strengthen the economic base of vulnerable households through financial management training for target households to encourage positive coping mechanisms, savings and sound investments; financial and governance training to community associations to increase savings and loan opportunities, and support other coping mechanisms such as cereal or fodder banks. Finally, the program is helping communities better manage natural resources and mitigate risks through improved access to fertile land and water resources; and more community-based land and water management committees embedded in existing government systems

3. Security

During this reporting quarter, the security situation in Filingué and Abala remained stable with no major incidents preventing Mercy Corps from operating.

4. Performance Summary

Award-Level Beneficiaries:

Cumulative Period Targeted		Reporting Period Reached		Cumulative Period Reached	
Total	IDP	Total	IDP	Total	IDP
28,000	0	14,194	0	14,194	0

4.1. Agriculture and Food security

SECTOR #1 Agriculture and Food Security	Objective: Strengthened production of targeted agro-pastoralists and pastoralists				
Geographic Area (s)	Along the international transhumance corridors in the Filingué and Abala Departments, Tillabéri Region, Niger				
Beneficiaries Targeted	28,000 (assuming family size of 7)				
Beneficiaries Reached (Reporting Period)	752 households (5,264 individuals)				
Beneficiaries Reached (Cumulative)	752 households (5,264 individuals)				
Sub-sector Livestock					
INDICATORS	Disaggregated	Applicable	Cumulative Value Targeted	Reporting Period Reached 30/09/13	Cumulative Reached
Number of animals benefiting from or affected by livestock activities	N/A	Yes	52,650	0	0
Number of animals treated in livestock activities	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	N/A

Number of people benefiting from livestock activities, by sex	Male	Yes	2,000	330	330
	Female	Yes	2000	180	180
	Other	Yes	-	-	-
Number of veterinary interventions (e.g., treatments, vaccinations, etc.) in livestock activities	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	N/A

Animals benefiting from or affected by livestock activities include an estimated 52,650 animals owned by livestock activity target beneficiaries. Activity impact will be tracked with these beneficiaries.

Construction of five livestock vaccination crushes: Sites have been selected, construction companies contracted, and the crushes are scheduled to be completed prior to the upcoming vaccination campaign this year. Community level and technical service focus groups discussions complemented project baseline household-level data to derive information on community herds and seasonal cattle traffic volume, confirming pastoralists' interest in vaccinating their animals using crushes, which help avoid injury for humans and animals alike. This information helped shape initial implementation strategies, including selecting sites where the infrastructure will benefit a maximum number of pastoral herds estimated so far at 52,650.

Rehabilitation of seven pastoral wells: Well rehabilitation sites have been identified and technical scopes of work are being sought to inform contracting. Diagnostic will be completed and rehabilitation of wells will start in the next quarter. Identified sites:

Department	Site/village
Filingué (4 sites/wells)	Garin Douté; Dan Gari ; Sabon Gari ; Rounfou/Tanfadora
Abala (3 sites/wells)	Hamba Daouda; Tchintchayé; Tanchiley

Nutrition Awareness-Raising:

15 of the 30 target villages were identified for FARN program activities to raise awareness on malnutrition based on the following principle criteria: 1) communities without health centers, and/or who are not benefiting from other nutrition interventions and 2) whose baseline research indicating higher food insecurity levels than in other Wadata Makiyaya target villages. Site selection was done in collaboration with the Filingué-based hospital and public health/nutrition authorities. 242 children were identified using the Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) to measure moderate malnutrition including 183 girls and 59 boys. During the reporting period, 23 cooking demonstration centers were established in these villages, and 242 beneficiaries benefited their first demonstration using millet, groundnut meal and other locally available ingredients. Additionally, 75 *Maman Lumieres*² and 15 community volunteers were trained on culinary demonstration using local ingredients. Monthly trainings will be offered over the course of six months, varying recipes presented according to changes in seasonal availability of ingredients to maximize access. Leader mothers and volunteers will take up the examples and expand into further communities. Culinary demonstration activities are ongoing in the following villages:



Anthropomorphic Screening in Tamagorjet Village

N°	Departments	Commune	Villages
1	Filingué	Filingué	Toukounous Arzika
2			Akora Kiara
3			Tarkassa
4			Adjiguidi
5			Maiguizeza
6			Gorou
7			Kania Zeno
8			Kania Tagui
9			Taramnou
10	Abala	Abala	Tantigar
11			Indikan
12			Tchintchayé
13			Garin Goumeyer
14			Iskita
15			Kabefo

² Leader mothers.

Fodder management demonstrations:

To prepare fodder education activities, Mercy Corps field teams visited the projects areas and met with the pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, involving local authorities to raise awareness and discuss upcoming project activities. A training program on fodder harvesting and storage was prepared by Mercy Corps program team in partnership with the government livestock agents, and then discussed with beneficiaries. Of 900 beneficiaries identified, 510 (330 men and 180 women) have already participated in a training program on fodder harvesting and conservation techniques along the corridor. According to initial post training monitoring and field visits (which are still ongoing), pastoralists and agro-pastoralists understand the techniques shared during the training. Relevance in terms of adoption will be measured in the following quarter.

4.2. Economic Recovery & Market Systems

SECTOR #2					
Economic Recovery and Market Systems		Objective: Increased access to financial services and savings for targeted communities.			
Geographic Area (s)		Along the international transhumance corridors in the Filingué and Abala Departments, Tillabéri Region, Niger			
Beneficiaries Targeted		8,750 individuals (1,250 households) (0 IDPs)			
Beneficiaries Reached (Reporting Period)		8,750			
Beneficiaries Reached (Cumulative)		8,750			
Subsector: Microfinance					
INDICATORS	Disaggregated	Applicable	Cumulative Value Targeted	Reporting Period Reached	Cumulative Reached
Number of people, by sex, or MSEs newly receiving financial services or continuing to receive financial services due to USAID/OFDA support	Male	Yes	0	0	0
	Female	Yes	1,250	1,250	1,250
	Other	Yes	0	0	0
Percentage of financial service accounts/groups supported by USAID/OFDA that are functioning properly	N/A	Yes	100%	0	0
Total USD amount channeled into the program area through subsector activities	N/A	No ³	N/A	N/A	N/A

After signing a partnership contract with Microfinance institution partner ASUSU CHIGABA, the partner facilitated the self-formation of 50 Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLAs) in the 30

³ Though included in the proposal, this indicator will not be measured as no related activities are being implemented through this program: under the VSLA model, no program funds are channeled to beneficiaries.

target villages, in close coordination with Mercy Corps' project staff and relevant government technical department. Amongst the 1,250 beneficiaries who constitute the 50 groups, all had affinities with existing social or informal mutual assistance groups. These individuals and groups have opted to adopt more formal VSLA structure and guidance and many more women are expressing interest to participate in the groups. ASUSU CHIGABA will offer a sequential set of trainings to reinforce group initiative and financial management capacity and associative live. To minimize challenges in the training and group organization, groups will be encouraged—though not mandated – to hold to a membership limit to 25.

VSLA activity targeting

Commune	Villages	VSLA		Number of VSLAs
		Name	Members	
Filingué	Tidiba	Niya	26	1
	Toukounouss Arzika	Alheri	26	2
		MoussamuMouwadat	27	
	Toukounouss Station	Quebal	23	2
		Beidari	27	
	Akora Kiara	-	20	1
	Maitalakia	-	46	2
	Louma	Wadata	25	8
		Faraa	27	
		Niya	25	
		Intchinkai	25	
		Hadinkai	25	
		Gouri	24	
		Lamba Raayi	24	
		Hankouri	25	
	Kania Zeno	-	79	3
	Kania Tagui	-	27	3
		Alheri	28	
		-	28	
	Tarkassa	Zoumoutchi	32	2
		Wadata	32	
	Banguir Barebari	Hadin Kai	25	1
	Banguir Kourfayawa	Zumuntchi	16	1
	Garin Kimba	-	33	1
	Ajiguidi	-	18	1
	Tantigar	Fatiha	20	1
	Gorou	Gorou	28	1
	Takoussa	Yaki da Talauci	25	3
		Hadin Kai	25	
		Taimakani	25	
	Maiguizaza	-	22	1

Commune	Villages	VSLA		Number of VSLAs
	Tamagorjek	-	25	1
	Sabon Yayi	-	24	1
Total Filingué			907	36
Abala	Indikan	-	20	1
	Tanchiley	-	61	2
	Tchintchaye	-	20	1
	Hamba Daouda	Zama Lahiya	26	1
	N'Goubara	-	25	1
	Hamba Doubalma	-	25	1
	Kabefo	-	25	1
	Tamatchi	Hadin Kai	25	2
		-	25	
	Inazadan 1	Adaltchi	25	1
	Inazadan 2	-	25	1
	Dan Banguiro	Alhakan Nana Hankouri	27 14	2
Total Abala			343	14
TOTAL			1250	50

4.3. Risk Reduction Policy and Practice

SECTOR #3 Risk Reduction Policy and Practice	Objective: Sustainable management of environmental and conflict-related risks by pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities				
Geographic Area (s)	Along the international transhumance corridors in the Filingué and Abala Departments, Tillabéri Region, Niger				
Beneficiaries Targeted	230 individuals (30 members of surveillance committees+200 COFOB members) (0 IDPs)				
Beneficiaries Reached (Reporting Period)	180				
Beneficiaries Reached (Cumulative)	180				
Subsector: Capacity Building and Training					
INDICATORS	Disaggregated	Applicable	Cumulative Value Targeted	Reporting Period Reached	Cumulative Reached
Number of people trained in disaster preparedness, mitigation and management, disaggregated by sex	Men	Yes	205	160	160
	Women	Yes	25	20	20
	Other	Yes	-	-	-
Number of trainings conducted	N/A	Yes	2	1	0

Number of people passing final exams or receiving certificates, disaggregated by sex (<i>will not be measured, as there are no relevant activities</i>)	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentage of people trained who retain skills and knowledge after two months	N/A	Yes	85%	0	0

Twenty communities have been identified for COFOB development in the Filingué Commune (12) and the Abala Commune (8). The absence of formally-trained COFOBs in the targeted villages is the principle criterion for site selection; all other communities in the target area have established COFOBs thanks to past project initiatives.

Villages targeted for COFOB support:

Commune	Villages	Commune	Villages
Filingué	Tsoloa	Abala	Konjimit
	Dan Marke		Iskita
	Makani Souleyman		Badak Toudou
	Bada Baye		BadakAdouwoyi
	Bine Kane		Tanaz guida
	Bindoli		Agaginay
	Kouka Gana		Dogaga
	Tanfadara		Tamalolo
	Biga Alip		
	Akoirinaye		
	Makani		
	Gao Awakass		

Key components for COFOB implementation included:

- Revitalization of the community land management commission (COFOB), with Filingué COFOBs, which typically include 9 to 11 members, including the village chief, a secretary, and representatives of pastoral, agricultural, and women's and youth groups. COFOBs are mostly trained on conflict mitigation and management, conflict resolution, land tenure issuing, negotiations, leadership and financial management, etc.
- A "Caravan for Peace" information/communication campaign was carried out in the target area, focusing on herd management and conflict prevention and management. The activity brought key the Departmental- and Communal-level land-use management authorities into direct dialogue with each of the project's 30 target communities through a series of community meetings, conducted over several days, with local media coverage. 3501 people attended these meetings. Though this activity occurred prior to COFOB setup, the

messaging referenced the role of COFOBs in the broader legal framework of sustainable natural resource management. Participants at different sites included:

	Filingué	Abala
Male	1156	876
Female	1092	377
Total	2248	1253

5. Monitoring & Evaluation

During the reporting period, the program team developed an indicator plan and carried out the baseline data collection for the project. Also, monitoring tools to be used throughout the project cycle, such as questionnaires, were designed during this period.

During baseline data collection, a household economy analysis (HEA) profile was developed in each of the targeted villages. The results obtained helped establish targets for indicators used to measure progress towards the project's objectives and to identify beneficiaries based on the needs of community members. The project followed the data collection protocol recommended by FANTA, allowing for better reconciliation of results of similar studies elsewhere.

The baseline assessment gathered data about household livelihoods, especially those linked to agro-pastoralism. According to the results obtained for agricultural production and considering an average consumption of 231 kg/person/year, 8 of the 15 villages surveyed are food secure during a 4-month period, while the others are food secure between five and six months. This calculation was made based on measures of millet, sorghum, peanuts, and bean production.

The project team developed a set of one-page monitoring questionnaires, of which two (fodder conservation and culinary demonstrations) are presently being completed as activities progress. The tools will be used to confirm the relevance and retention of training subjects 60 days after training sessions. Questionnaires may be administered either by Mercy Corps field agents (for fodder trainings, VSLAs, or culinary demonstrations) or site management committees (for wells and vaccination crushes) with the M&E team ensuring quality control in terms of data collection (timing and technique) as well as data analysis. Mercy Corps also ensures high levels of community participation in monitoring, particularly related to community assets such as wells and vaccination crushes.

6. Coordination

The Wadata Makiyaya program team has been involved in coordination activities to ensure ownership, participation and a full understanding of our work with potential partners during the implementation. Contacts are maintained with key stakeholders, including GoN technical services, NGOs working in the same area, departmental land management commission (COFODEP), and traditional and administrative authorities. An example of how coordination added value to project

interventions was working with the IRC and the nutrition cluster to avoid duplication and harmonize approaches in regard to site selection and methodology for nutrition awareness raising activities.

7. Conclusion and Upcoming Activities

This critical first quarter of the Wadata Makiyaya program saw the development of tools and support mechanisms to help the project achieve its overall goal. In the next period, Mercy Corps will implement key project infrastructure including animal crushes, well rehabilitation, and continue key complementary trainings: COFOB trainings in Abala, fodder demonstrations, herd management, training of vaccination crush committees and surveillance and water management and ongoing FARN nutritional awareness-raising. The other activities such as culinary demonstrations, VSLA capacity building, and community awareness on conflict management will continue throughout the life of the program, with links established between surveillance committees and the broader frameworks of traditional conflict management. The Wadata Makiyaya program is on track to contribute to the overall goal of increased food security and resilience of vulnerable agro-pastoralists and pastoralist households along the international transhumance corridor.